

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

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1. A method of digital imaging utilizing a look-down digital imaging device, said method comprising:

illuminating a target scan area below said look-down digital imaging device; and

sweeping an image raster line across at least a portion of said target scan area to

5 capture a digital image of an original image within said target scan area.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein said captured digital image of said original is a single, congruent digital image of said original.

3. The method of claim 1 further comprising:
performing optical character recognition operations on captured digital image data of said original

4. The method of claim 1 wherein said sweeping an image raster line across said original captures high resolution digital image data of said original.

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5. The method of claim 4 wherein said high resolution is no less than approximately 300 dpi.

6. The method of claim 1 further comprising:
capturing video data of said target scan area; and
displaying said captured video data on a display.

7. The method of claim 1 further comprising:

selecting at least a portion of said original image to be captured as a digital image.

8. The method of claim 7 wherein said look-down digital imaging device recognizes said at least a portion of said original image to be captured as that portion over which an indicator is moved.

9. The method of claim 1 wherein said sweeping is achieved by at least one movement selected from the group consisting of:

pivoting said look-down digital imaging device about an axis, pivoting said look-down digital imaging device about an axis and translating look-down digital imaging device vertically relative to said target scan area during said pivoting, and translating said look-down digital imaging device laterally relative to said target scan area.

10. A look-down digital imaging device comprising:
linear sensor for imaging a raster line of an original image placed substantially below
said look-down digital imaging device; and
lens for focusing reflected light from said original to said linear sensor.
11. The look-down digital imaging device of claim 10 wherein said linear sensor
comprises a tri-linear color CCD array.
12. The look-down digital imaging device of claim 10 wherein said linear sensor
is a high resolution sensor that captures digital image data of said original at resolution no
less than approximately 300 dpi.
13. The look-down digital imaging device of 10 wherein said linear sensor is a
high resolution sensor that captures digital image data of said original at sufficient resolution
to permit optical character recognition operations to be performed on said digital image data.
14. The look-down digital imaging device of claim 10 further comprising a digital
video camera for capturing video data of said original.
15. The look-down digital imaging device of claim 10 implemented as a stand-
alone device.
16. The look-down digital imaging device of claim 10 wherein said linear sensor
receives a non-folded optical path of light reflected from said original.

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17. A system for performing digital imaging comprising:
a look-down digital imaging device that includes means for imaging a raster line over a target scan area and means for focusing reflected light from said target scan area to said imaging means.

18. The system of claim 17 wherein said means for imaging is a high resolution linear sensor.

19. The system of claim 17 wherein said high resolution is resolution no less than approximately 300 dpi.

20. The system of claim 17 further comprising a computer device to which said look-down digital imaging device is coupled.